

Removing (Face)Masks by Meghan Page (mutter11)

Category: Stranger Things (TV 2016)

Genre: Alternate Universe - Football, American Football, F/F, Fluff, bullet-point fic

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Characters: Barbara "Barb" Holland, Jonathan Byers, Nancy Wheeler, Steve Harrington

Relationships: Barbara "Barb" Holland/Nancy Wheeler

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Summary:

High school newspaper journalist Nancy develops a crush on a wide receiver. But a cute girl at the library also catches her eye...

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Author's Note:

I had a plot bunny that wouldn't go away, so I had to write this out. If anyone wants to write a full prose form of this, please do and send me a link!

- Nancy and Jonathan are on the school newspaper
- Jonathan is a photographer, Nancy writes
- They're best buds and work on articles together all the time
- Somehow they always get stuck doing the football team stories
- "Jonathan why are we here, this is like the third article we've had to do on the football team this week"
- "Nothing happens in this town Nance. Plus everyone loves some good old red-blooded football"
- They spend a lot of time hanging around the field, so they start to get to know some of the players pretty well
- One in particular catches Nancy's eye
- Number 26. Wide receiver. A very good one. Sticky hands. Cute butt
- Not that Nancy's been looking
- She's totally been looking
- "Why do you think #26 never takes his helmet off?"
- Jonathan shrugs. "Idk, maybe he gets really bad helmet hair and doesn't want anyone to see"
- Nancy shoves him. He laughs
- She thinks #26 would have cute hair. Not that she's thought about it much
- She totally has
- They also get to know the other kids that hang around under the bleachers. Bad boys and stoners, mostly
- One in particular takes an interest in Nancy
- Steve Harrington. One of the coolest guys in school
- She likes the attention. The thrill of dating a super popular "bad boy"
- He takes her to parties, gives her her first taste of beer
- At the same time, Nancy still tries to focus on her studies
- When she's not busy at the football field or with Steve, she

spends most of her time in the library

- She always sits at the same table, across from a redhead with short hair and large glasses
- Eventually, Nancy strikes up a conversation with Barb, as the girl introduces herself
- After that, they talk all the time, and quickly become friends
- “You’d like her, Jonathan, she’s so nice and funny and smart. She’s in all advanced classes and she seems to know everything there is to know about history”
- “She seems great. You should invite her to Homecoming on Friday”
- “Yeah okay” The thought creates a warm feeling in her chest
- But when she asks, Barb blushes scarlet and stammers, “Sorry, I have to, uh, do something then”
- Nancy’s more disappointed than she expected
- She ends up going with Jonathan, his camera, and her little journalism notebook. Might as well get some material for an article
- She can’t stop watching #26, which is fine, bc he plays a great game
- At halftime, Steve finds her and draws her under the bleachers to make out
- Nancy doesn’t like it. He tastes like smoke and he gets way too handsy, even when she tells him to back off. She breaks it off with him
- She decides that instead she’s gonna do something about that crush on a certain wide receiver that never really went away
- #26 gives her the perfect opportunity when he catches a 20-yard pass for the winning touchdown
- Nancy convinces Jonathan to wait outside and stations herself by the locker rooms after the game, notebook at the ready
- The entire team streams in, whooping and cheering, and she’s afraid she’s somehow missed him
- But then she spots him coming down the hall
- She’s about to call out, but then he pulls off his helmet, and Nancy realizes she’s made a huge misconception about him
- Or rather - her
- “BARB?!”
- Barb stops stock-still in the middle of the hall. Her sweaty ginger hair is tousled from her helmet. It is cute

- “N- Nancy!”
- Nancy stalks over, grabs Barb by the hand, drags her around the corner out of sight
- And lays a kiss right on her
- Barb’s brain appears to short circuit. “Wh- whuh...?”
- “I’ve had 2 separate crushes on you, you know” Nancy tells her with a grin
- Barb’s answering smile could light up the Upside-Down
- The end